

THE WYOMING DEMOCRAT.

DEFEND THE RIGHT. CONDEMN THE WRONG.

BY S. S. WINCHESTER.

TUNKHANNOCK, TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 3, 1850.

VOL. II. NO. 27.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Tunkhannock, Aug. 26, 1850.

Dear Sir—In behalf of those who requested you to deliver a Funeral Discourse upon the death of our late President, we now request that you furnish a copy of the same for publication. Truly Yours,

ELHANAN SMITH,
A. H. BOLLES,
P. M. OSTERHOUT,
MILTON DANA,
GEO. S. TUTTON,
JNO. M. BURTON.

Tunkhannock, Aug. 26, 1850.

GENTLEMEN—I have been in doubt as to what reply ought to be made to your note of this morning requesting a copy of the Discourse delivered yesterday for publication. My opinion against the propriety of acceding to your request is well known to yourselves, and the reason of it, viz. that the judgment of partial friends is not always correct, and therefore the object of kindness is often held up to public view in a disadvantageous light.

Hoping rather than believing it will not be so in the present instance, and desirous to accommodate those who were unable to hear it delivered, I have decided to place at your disposal the Discourse prepared at your request.

Yours truly,
C. R. LANE.

To E. SMITH and others.

A Discourse IN REFERENCE TO THE DEATH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

PSALM XXXIII. 6. Verily every man at his best estate is altogether vanity.

On the face of the whole creation, God has written CHANGE. The grass withereth and the flower fadeeth—the vernal blossom quickly gives place to the fruit of summer and is followed by the "sear and yellow leaf."

In the animate creation, the same inexorable law has sway. The songsters that eddied the grove and saluted the rising sun with their songs, soon cease from their warblings and mingle with the dust.

The microscopic insect and the monsters of the mighty deep are alike mortal. Indeed the very rocks and hills are not proof against the action of the elements and the ravages of time, and the earth itself will be arrested in its course by the mighty hand of God and return again to its original nothingness.

All these things, the man of reflection can contemplate without emotion except so far as he sees shadowed forth in them, his own condition: for our "time is short and fast passing away." The infant breathes out its life unconscious of a mother's love. The youth of high hopes, of ardent, noble aspirations, falls an easy prey to the Destroyer. The strength of manhood, the cares of business, the love and the claims of friends are no security. One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. His breasts are full of milk and his bones are moistened with marrow. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul and never catcheth with pleasure. They shall lie down alike in the dust and the worms shall cover them.

The few who escape for a little longer, the arrows of death, must yet look forward to the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way and the almond shall flourish and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home and the mourners go about the streets; or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel shall be broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Such is the "end of earth." With this lot we are forced to be content, subject to disease, disappointment and death from a thousand sources, at any moment and in any circumstances, for these, by reason of sin, the ministers of God's Justice, pay no respect to age or condition. The high and the low are prostrated by the same invisible, irresistible Agent, whose goings are in the path of righteousness and in the ways of wickedness—in the haunts of unhallowed ambition and in the abodes of Patriotism—in the home of domestic friendship and love, and in the councils of the nation. Verily every man, at his best estate is vanity, altogether vanity. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. Such is man, such are all men in one point of view but not in another. The spirit scorns, it laughs at death. It will remain in the full vigour of thought and perception and feeling long—long after the heavens are no more. This is common to all, but some men—a favored few, render themselves permanent on the earth and as to their influence, immortal with succeeding generations of men. Their bodies die, but their name remains—their actions cease but their effect continues—their features are lost with the decaying canvass and, the mouldering marble, but their character lives in the history of the

face, to be studied, admired, and imitated by the ardent and susceptible mind of youth through all coming time. Thus it is that, such men live their lives over and over again in ten thousand bosoms as generation after generation of common men are both buried and lost in the almost all devouring grave.

On the present occasion, it will be proper to cite several examples, illustrative of the influence exerted by single men, on nations for centuries. More than two thousand years ago, Rome and Carthage were engaged in a struggle for supremacy: which, at first sight, appeared to involve only the advantage of one powerful nation over another and therefore not interesting to other nations. But that was not in fact the issue joined when the youthful Carthaginian pursuant to his vow laid siege to Saguntum, crossed the Alps, waved his victorious banners over the bloody field of Cynae. The question was whether Rome and Carthage should be blotted out. Whether Roman civilization and law should take its course toward Germany, France and England and thence to us, or degenerate in Barbary and be absorbed and lost in the sands of Africa. This really was the risk staked at Zama and decided in favor of the world when victory declared for the legions of Imperial Rome. It is the result that throws such a lustre over the name of Scipio; not that Carthage fell, but because Europe was saved.

Columbus is another name that will not soon be forgotten: who enlarged the territory of the human race, as if preparatory to the mighty effort of mind in bursting asunder the bonds that had bound it to ignorance, superstition and tyranny, and in striking out new trains of thought which were destined to shake Europe to its centre and fit it for using those splendid discoveries in a way worthy of their greatness, by planting Colonies in which thought and opinion were to be as free as the wind of heaven.

The same principles that were wrought out in Saxony and Switzerland in the sixteenth century were applied in the seventeenth to politics by the Puritan Statesmen of England. They were in the nature and formed the character of that noble race of whom John Hampden, Oliver Cromwell and John Milton, may be named as specimens—men whose names will be remembered as long as honesty is respected, genius admired or liberty is loved. They were the forerunners of Franklin, of Hancock and of Washington who merely commenced their work where Hampden left off and in another hemisphere completed the noble Temple of human right, whose foundation stones are laid deep and immovable in God's eternal Truth.

Among such men, the late President must be classed. What particular rank, he shall take; which niche, he shall fill in the Temple of Fame, belongs not to us, but to posterity, to determine. The fact that is settled, is that Taylor's name is fixed in history—that Taylor's deeds can never cease to affect both Hemispheres.

Those who have read history to any purpose, are aware that no circumstance has been more influential in deciding the destiny of nations, than the extension of Territory and the incorporation of new and to some extent, of foreign element in the body politic. What may be the result in any given case, no prudent can foresee. What must be, if pursued beyond the ability to assimilate as well as to incorporate, no blindness can avoid perceiving.

In the matter of extension, from small beginnings, we have made unprecedented progress, even if the stakes that make our boundaries remain for several generations where they are at present.

There was a commercial necessity for the purchase of Louisiana and border safety at the time required that no independent Sovereignty rule in Florida. At this point the older race of Statesmen stopped, being satisfied with what necessity had compelled them, with many misgivings, to do; but in our day, a less cautious spirit has taken possession of the public mind. Under its reign, no period of our history since the adoption of the Federal Constitution, has been more important than the seven years last passed. Within this short period, an independent State has been absorbed in our onward movement—the war cry, before unheard by most of the present generation, has resounded through our valleys & been re-echoed by our hills—armies containing the flower of our youth have been marshalled—battles fought and won—the stars and stripes of the Republic have waved in triumph over the ramparts of the most ancient city on the Continent—peace has returned again and now there is scarcely a ripple on the surface of society to indicate the storm that so lately raged in its fury, and bore away so many gallant spirits from the earth, but not from the proud and grateful recollections of their countrymen. The banners they waved in victory are, not yet faded—they still wave the flag of Peace the emblem of our Sovereignty over a new empire—literally a New Empire in the amplexes of its boundaries, the productiveness of its soil, the length of its seaboard, the capacity of its harbours and in its mineral resources almost inexhaustible, placed there by that God who sees the end from the beginning in order that California though far distant might at once take her place among her sisters, not as an infant, but like Minerva, created at maturity.

It is not important to speculate on the result, her Placers may have on currency and value, for other things far more important are plain and obvious. The spirit of enterprise and improvement has been thoroughly waked up. The commerce of Asia is in our hands and of the Islands of the Sea. Judging by the past, it is not unreasonable to believe that soon the lightning will be flashing over wires, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and that the virgin knows of the Sierra Nevada, will be contaminated with

the smoke and cinders of the Steam-Car. The stream of civilization pouring in, both from the East and the West must soon overflow the present home of the Red man. The roaring of the beast of prey and the war-hoop of the painted Savage must soon give place to the din of business and the forest to cultivated fields or even immense cities, built up by inland commerce.

A noble patrimony, God has given us—a country somewhat in keeping with the heavenly principles of Civil and Religious Liberty: principles suitable to the nature of man and as general in their application to his wants, as the Law of gravitation to matter, as permanent as our Allegiances, as irresistible in their onward course as the Father of waters and as precious, nay far more so than the sparkling sands and golden mountains of our Pacific possessions. A magnificent country the God of mankind has selected for the home of Freemen—with great honor has he honored us, in making us the possessors in fact of the rights of man and the guardians in trust for all nations. The position we occupy imposes the most solemn duty to be true, as the needle to its pole, to be true to the flag of the Union, which our Fathers founded in their blood. The mark that Cain wore, would be disgraced, if placed on one who cherished even in secret the design of blotting out one Star from our Political Firmament.

But any view of the late conflict, which does not contemplate the relations which our extended Republic sustains to other nations, must be defective.

If the purposes of Divine Providence in this matter be so far developed that we can predict the issue with any tolerable degree of certainty, the time is not far distant when the noble race that made the mountains of Old Castile, the bulwarks of Christendom and from their base rolled back to Africa the mighty tide of Saracenic invasion, will be roused from their lethargy and partake of the activity of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors. One thing is certain: Mexico cannot long remain as it is. It must become like the States of the North in order to preserve its nationality against them.

Another relation remains to be noticed, before the events of the last seven years of our history can be fully understood. The mariners compass, the art of printing and the discovery of America, were all preparatory to that mighty shaking of mind in central Europe, under the impulses of which, the world is still moving. This relation being determined beyond all reasonable doubt, is it visionary to believe that the Spirit of God had an ulterior design in enlarging so wonderfully of late, our knowledge of the powers of nature especially of Steam and Magnetism? Are these splendid discoveries ends or means? Are the countless millions of Asia brought by means of them almost to our doors simply in order that our wealth may be increased or that they may be made partakers of our richer blessings? It is not improbable that the days of hoary-headed despotism and of ancient & venerable idolatry are numbered. It is not improbable that the Car of Liberty drawn forward by the irresistible attention of the Free Grace of God that bringeth salvation to all nations, will at no distant period traverse the plains of Asia where might first triumphed over right.

In these events, connected with results, if not precisely such as have been described, yet similar; Gen. Taylor was a chief actor. It is true indeed that the honor must be shared with others; but they are enough to make the age illustrious and all the distinguished actors, immortal. We are assembled, therefore, for a higher object, a nobler purpose than man-worship. We are assembled to review a character that reflects glory on our country and honor on our nature. That character, in our judgment can be fully appreciated only when contemplated from the direction we have approached its manifestations. It must be seen not in a sectional point of view or even national but world-wide. For as the pebble dropped in the ocean communicated its impulses to every particle of water, so the deeds determine the stream of the world's history; thus viewed battles are of intense interest, not as scenes of carnage, but as the decisions of God, as permanent points of reference and as indications of human character. These are the media through which the public character of Gen. Taylor must be viewed.

His military course was a strikingly splendid one, from the beginning of it, to the end. The display of military talents made in the defence of Fort Harrison proved that an opportunity was all that was required in order to eminence in the profession of arms.

We next find him in the war waged by the U. S. against a combination of Indian tribes under the celebrated Black Hawk and afterwards finishing the disastrous war in Florida by a desperate battle near Lake Okechobee; and lastly we find, although he ranked no higher than a Brigadier Gen.—and that by brevet yet we find him selected to command on the Rio Grande in circumstances of great danger and still greater responsibility. We all remember how the nation held its breath when our gallant countrymen marched from their camp opposite Matamoros for the relief of Point Isabel; we all remember too the shout of universal joy and exultation that went up when our ears heard of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. It is by no means improbable that these victories had much to do with the action of Congress then in session and in bringing together those daring spirits that waved the Flag of Republic from the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa to the City of Mexico.

It is not necessary that we occupy your time with a description of the siege of Monterey and the bloody conflict at Buena Vista. That would be a fit subject for another day, yet the names must be mentioned as filling the bright pages of

our country's history. At this point the military course of our illustrious fellow citizen closes in a blaze of glory.

Buena Vista cannot be compared with Lexington which opened our war with Yorktown which closed the war from our own to the enemy's country—it was another landmark in the progress of Empire westward—it made Zachary Taylor the property of his whole country, and confirmed his title to the admiration of the civilized world.

A citizen distinguished by deeds of such heroic bravery, could not relapse into obscurity. His countrymen placed a civic wreath upon his brow, raising him to the very summit of human greatness. For the man who has been chosen to "preserve and defend" the Liberties of his country, can have no higher earthly trust committed to his care. From this eminence, almost as soon as it was reached, the action's Choice descended to the "Republic of the grave." Verily every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. There is but a step between the highest honors and the clouds of the valley; but a moment intervenes between the warm affections of friends and the cold embrace of Death, who is untaught to distinguish between the high and the low, the honored and the degraded; yet there is a difference between a useful and an honorable life, breathed out amid the sorrows and the regrets of a nation, and looking forward to a disgraceful exit before another Sabbath's sun shall shine. From the contrast all may learn lessons of virtue.

Of Gen. Taylor as a civilian, but little can be said. He was not permitted to develop any great scheme of national policy, yet candid men must admit that in this new course, brief as it was, he gave the earnest of no common ability. But over this subject God has drawn a veil through which we cannot see.

We have now, from a point of observation chosen far (some may think too far) in the past, reviewed the deeds of our late President, both as they are in fact and as they seem to present themselves when projected on the future. In order to complete our design, it remains to give an analysis of his character.

1. The first and the radical element appears to have been sober judgment. We find him engaged in no visionary schemes. In his mind the line appears distinctly drawn between the possible and the impossible. The one he never attempted; the other he never failed to accomplish.

2. Perseverance in a course of action once determined on, was another characteristic trait. All his resources were concentrated on the main point, and no time was lost and no strength was expended on collateral issues. In this way he was enabled to work such wonders against such fearful odds.

3. Like the "Father of his country," Gen. T. appears to have possessed in an eminent degree equanimity. Disaster, instead of depressing, only nerved him for more strenuous efforts, and by his heroic bravery, apparent defeat was but victory seen on the other side. Nor did victory elate or cause him to relax his vigilance or hinder him from improving his victories to the utmost. However circumstances might change, he was the same, and the whole army caught confidence from the firm, unchanging countenance of their Chief.

4. General Taylor was kind, not by feak, but uniformly, to those under his command. He was their friend, as long as an honorable man could befriend them without tainting his own character. The rules of war were pressed with no greater rigor than the maintenance of discipline required. Towards others to the end of life, he manifested the only genuine characteristic of true greatness, viz. modesty.

5. Towards all men, Gen. Taylor was sincere. In his composition there appeared to be none of that little contemptible meanness—no plotting or undermining, no envy or jealousy at the success of other men, which is so disgraceful and so much indulged in. Gen. Taylor was candid, and it is believed, in all the relations of life, that he was an honest man.

In these respects, viz. as a prudent, persevering man, as a man of calm, settled purpose, undisturbed either by disaster or success—a man of kindness, moderation, and thorough honesty and sincerity, we value our late chief magistrate, and hold him up as an example, not perfect indeed, but worthy of imitation. We hold him up to our young men as a pattern worthy in the respects named of a generous emulation.

Young Gentlemen, God has set before you a noble race. Your country both needs and demands your services. Be true to that country. Be true now, by preparing yourselves to understand and defend her interests. Dismiss your dreams; shake off sloth; overcome unwooly passions; wake up to the reality of life; despair not that the harvest of glory on the tented field is all reaped—that the bright stars already located in the firmament of science will forever render all others invisible—that the aris have reached their perfection. It is not so. The scroll of fame has yet space left for your names, but you must write them there yourselves. Begin now the first traces, for the progress is a slow one, by discharging day by day all your duties, honorably and faithfully. Think not that the Goddess of Fame has time to search you out—wait not till some great occasion occurs; for then you will not be prepared to meet it. Think you the late Administration would have chosen Taylor, for carrying out those very measures on which their honor and their fame were staked, if he had not undergone a severe preparatory training in the wilds of the west, and among the everglades of the south? These were the grounds on which Gen. Taylor stood when he wrote his name

high among the "Fathers of the Republic." Be prepared as Taylor was, your country will both require and reward your services. But it will not answer for the young men of America to confine their attention to their own land. On the one side is Asia looking in for the light of science and civilization and of the Kingdom. To meet this want will require learning, skill, patience and courage of the highest order. The ministers of Christ are already there, and they have opened a way to wealth, honor and usefulness to the agriculturist, the artisan, the merchant, the jurist, the physician and the teacher. There is a demand which will supply it? On the other side is Africa, beckoning her exiled children home. The children of Ham need the aid of Columbia's most intelligent, active, energetic and self-sacrificing sons—and Europe, in which a well-defined struggle between Republicanism and Monarchy has fairly commenced; a struggle that can never terminate until the one side or the other is completely conquered. At what moment open war may ensue, no man can foresee; but when it does come, we cannot be idle spectators, and we ought not. Herebefore we have kept clear of European politics; but it does not follow from this that we always will. To whom can the oppressed look for aid and succor if not to us? If our ear is shut to their cry, whose ear will be open? The interests of humanity call loudly and clearly on every son of Washington to be prepared for the service of our common country in its mission of blessedness to the human family.

Young Gentlemen, there is enough for you to do. Sit no longer idle, wasting the time, energy and talent for which there is so loud and so clear a call. Gird on your armor. Be blessings to your land. In your labors be encouraged, by the example of Taylor, who without patronage made his way to the highest honors. Such are the practical workings and so great is the beauty of our Republican Institutions. Your fortune, under God, is in your own hands. Depend therefore on your own exertions and the Divine blessing. Be up there; Anoint yourselves as citizens worthy of a country that bestowed its highest honors on unpretending worth in the person of Zachary Taylor. But it would be doing violence to the day and the place we occupy, to the nature and the feelings of our audience, not to direct our thoughts beyond the present life to the honor that comes from God and endures forever. Immortality cannot be satisfied with time. While, therefore, the honor that comes from man is not to be rejected, but rightly used, it must be remembered that this is not the chief end of our being. In the paths of worldly ambition, few can become distinguished; but before all without distinction, God in the Gospel of His Son, has set glory and honor and immortality, a crown of life and a throne among the heavenly beings, the object of the Divine nature, ever-expanding, never ceasing progress in and unto the infinite and eternal Jehovah, manifested in humanity—the common link between creatures of yesterday, whose breath is in their nostrils, and the ever-living God.

TO HIM BE GLORY AND HONOR, MIGHT AND DOMINION, FOR EVER AND EVER.—AMEN.

NOVEL LEGISLATION.—The Legislature of Wisconsin has recently passed an act by which any owner or lessee of land who shall knowingly, permit the Canada thistle to go to seed on such land, is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, to be punished by a fine not exceeding five nor less than one dollar, with costs.

PRESENCE OF MIND.—A mad dog in Bridgport entered a lady's school. The teacher had presence of mind enough to pour a pitcher of water upon it, which threw it into convulsions, and gave time for the escape of herself and the children.

The Sandy Hill Herald states that hereafter it will not support any candidate for office, who is not a subscriber to a Democratic newspaper. He should have added "and who pays regularly for it."

A young man who falls in love, and gets married, without having first examined his Ducinea's character in a rational way, is like a man, who commits a folly while drunk, and is held to repent at leisure when sober.

A well known alderman was taken to see the Hippopotamus. He looked at it intently for a quarter of an hour, and then burst out of his reverie with the following remark—"I wonder what sort of soup it will make!" [Punch.]

"Ma, that nice young man, Mr. Saufflung is very fond of kissing you." "Mind your own business, Julia, who told you such nonsense?" "Ma, I had it from his own lips."

A generous man, will, in his treatment to an enemy, resemble the sun, which pours light all around it—even upon the clouds that try to dim its lustre.

Tell-tales are contemptible beings. To retail in one house what is seen or spoken of in another is a treason against society, which cannot be thoroughly despised.

Why is an oration delivered from the deck of a ship like a necklace? Because it is a decoration.

No man ever regretted that he was honest and virtuous in his youth, and kept aloof from idle companionship.